

Bornt Farm, Jacumba **Eye Gnat Nuisance Prevention Plan (2012)** **Inspection Report**

Ron Ramos

DATE June 12, 2012

PREVENTION METHODS

Buffer Crops (Refer to 2012 Plan, Attachment 1 for locations)

	Yes	No	N/A	Violation
100 feet from the outer farm edge that borders the community	X			
Twelve total rows of production dedicated to buffer crops.	X			
Plant type approved by County Vector Control.	X			
Conventional pesticide applied weekly, records available during weekly inspection(Apr. 1 - Oct. 31).	X			
A minimum of six full rows parallel with community that are 2-4 feet or taller		X		X
Prior to April, if buffer crops are not at a minimum 2 feet in height the farmer will either:				
treat buffer crops with conventional pesticides and treat production crops weekly with organic pesticides			X	

or

plant production crops at minumim 1,000 feet from the edge of town.			X	
Buffer Crops maintained regardless of crop production.		X		X

Barriers (Refer to 2012 Plan, Attachment 1 for locations)

Erosion or dust barrier cloth is a minimum of 36 inches in height. Placement is consistent with Attachment 1.		X		X
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Trapping (Refer to 2012 Plan, Attachment 1 for locations)

Traps will be at or below 36 inches from ground level.	X			
Traps on farm will be monitored and maintained by Bornt Farms weekly(Feb. 1 -Nov. 1).		X		X
A double row of collar traps are 10 feet apart and parallel with community border.	X			
First row of collar traps are 10 feet from erosion barrier.	X			
Second row of collar traps are parallel with first row and staggered.	X			
First and second rows of collar traps are within the treated buffer crop and extend from the southern most end of the crop production to the northern most end of crop production.	X			
Traps are in and will remain in place when production crops are planted and harvested.	X			

CULTURAL CONTROL METHODS

Dry Period

Harvest of production crops will be complete and irrigation to production crops will cease by June 15 and will not resume until August 15.			X	
Irrigation is prohibited in dry period			X	
Fresh organic matter is not tilled under the soil	X			
Cut crop is reduced by drying until it flakes when crushed prior to tilling.	X			
Weed control is controlled by herbicides, by hand, or cutting machine (not tilling).	X			
Production crops will not be planted south of Old Highway 80.	X			

SELF REPORTING

On January 25, 2012, Bornt Farm Managment provided notice to the County's Vector Control Program that February 1, 2012 was the estimated date for the initial planting of production crops in compliance with the 2012 Prevention Plan Self Reporting requirement.

COMMENTS:

Buffer crops have not been watered and are continuing to dry out and turn brown. The majority of block H still remains less than 2' tall, possibly due to farm related activities knocking them over or the wind resulting in large areas of exposed soil and scattered low growing vegetation. This is a violation of the 2012 Eye Gnat Nuisance Prevention Plan (plan). The plan requires that "buffer crops will be maintained and watered as identified in 1.a regardless of crop production status." [Page1, Section 1] and "If the plants in the buffer crop are cut or trimmed they need to be cut in rotation so that there are at least six full rows parallel with the community that are 2-4 feet or taller at any given point in time after April 1, to allow for treatment by conventional equipment." [Page 1, Section 1, item c. first bullet]

All barrier cloth bordering the west end of the farm (blocks F,H,J,L and N) were in good condition and consistent with Attachment 1 of the 2012 Eye Gnat Prevention Plan. However, all barrier cloth along the southern border of the farm (along Old Hwy 80), in particular blocks G and F has been removed. This is a violation of the 2012 Eye Gnat Prevention Plan. The plan requires that "a barrier between the farm and the community will be maintained the entire length of crop production"..."See Attachment 1 for required locations." [Page 1, Section 2, item a]

Collar traps along the west end of block F (adjacent to the houses) had been replenished with water (per David Pratt). However, collar traps along the south end of block F (bordering Old Hwy 80) were dry. Collar traps in the remainder of the farm (blocks G,H,J,L and N) contained no liquid bait solution. This is a violation of the 2012 Eye Gnat Nuisance Prevention Plan. The plan requires that "traps on the farm will be maintained (i.e. addition of new solution, replace broken parts, etc.) by Bornt Farms on a weekly basis from February 1 through November 1." [Page 2, Section 3, item b]

Buffer crops were treated with conventional pesticides on June 11, 2012.

Weather was hot and sunny with little wind. A total of 5 eye gnats were observed flying around collar traps in the town of Jacumba. No eye gnats were observed flying around the farm with the exception of collar trap G where approximately 12 eye gnats were observed.

DEH received written notification on June 7, 2012 that Bornt Farms will be vacating Jacumba Valley ranch due to the lack of water necessary to grow production crops. The letter proposed an exit process which is under review by VCP staff.

Date: 6/12/12

Inspector:  for Ron Ramos
Chris Boulton